

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

A TRIBUTE IN RECOGNITION OF
DR. EDISON O. JACKSON

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 12, 2009

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Dr. Edison O. Jackson, the President of Medgar Evers College of the City University of New York and a foremost leader in higher education who is now retiring after twenty years with the College.

Dr. Jackson was born in Heathsville, Virginia. He received a Bachelor of Science degree in Zoology, a Master of Arts degree in Counseling from Howard University, a Master of Divinity degree from New York Theological Seminary, and a Doctorate in Education from Rutgers University with an emphasis on the philosophy, function, role, and administration of urban educational institutions.

After an impressive twenty years in higher education, Dr. Jackson was welcomed to Medgar Evers College as its 5th President. He quickly formulated and implemented a new vision for the College's future, spearheading the creation of the Freshman Year Program, increasing student retention, creating three new academic schools, and restoring the institution's senior college status in 1994.

To increase the enrollment and academic success of African American males, Dr. Jackson established the nationally recognized Male Development and Empowerment Center to groom and guide men through their higher education career and to prepare them for the workforce. Consequently, Medgar Evers has increased its enrollment of African American men by 13 percent.

Dr. Jackson has served and/or holds membership in a number of prominent civic, educational, and community organizations. He has also written on issues of concern to educators regarding minority students, including student retention and the role of spiritual leadership in higher education.

Dr. Jackson has been honored for his decades of service and achievements from scores of elected officials, educational institutions, and community organizations.

Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize Dr. Edison O. Jackson, a visionary leader and an inspiration to all of New York.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Dr. Edison O. Jackson.

CENTRAL DAVIDSON—THREE
TIMES A CHAMPION

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 12, 2009

Mr. COBLE. Madam Speaker, a softball team at a high school in our congressional

district proved this year that even when you lose your key player for a large part of the season, when the whole team pulls together, greatness can still be achieved. Despite losing 2008 News & Record All-Area Player of the Year Chelsea Leonard to a knee injury on November 25, 2008, the Central Davidson High School softball team came together and finished its 21–7 season with a championship title. “We’ve been through some tough times this year,” Coach Gene Poindexter told The Dispatch. “Got knocked down a couple times. Got black eyes a couple of times. We just kept fighting, and we worked hard to get back in the playoffs; I can’t say enough about all these freshmen, sophomores and juniors. They’re a great bunch of kids who worked their tails off.” On behalf of the citizens of the Sixth District of North Carolina, we wish to congratulate the Spartans for winning their third consecutive 2A state softball championship.

The Spartans defeated Richlands by a score of 1–0 on Saturday, June 6, 2009. Freshman extraordinaire Carley Tysinger ripped a 1–0 pitch into left for a single to drive in the biggest run of the season and the only run of the title game. And that one-run lead was all that was needed with senior Chelsea Leonard on the mound. Leonard returned in time for the postseason and was named tournament MVP. Leonard threw a one-hitter with 19 strikeouts against Richlands in the title game.

The championship season was a team effort led by seniors Kelsey Rountree and Chelsea Leonard, juniors Haley Hanes, Laura Fritts, Haley Thore, Nicole Perry, and Mindi Morris, sophomores Kara Lohr, Whitney Lohr, Jazmine Charles, Emma Comer, and Megan Yountz, and freshmen Charity McGath, Carley Tysinger, Allie Stovall, and Lauren Bryant.

Also assisting the team during this season were assistant coaches Jim Welborn, Bryan Starnes, Greg Leonard, Sterling Charles, Mike Pickett, Jordan Stogner, Jodi Duncan, the voice of the Spartans, announcer Stuart Joontz, scorekeeper Mitzi Tysinger and last but not least, manager Xavier “Sabby” Rosales.

Again, on behalf of the Sixth District, we would like to congratulate Principal Emily Lipe, Athletic Director and Head Coach Gene Poindexter, and everyone affiliated with the Spartans. Congratulations to Central Davidson on a spectacular season and for winning its third consecutive 2A state softball championship.

FOREIGN RELATIONS AUTHORIZATION ACT, FISCAL YEARS 2010 AND 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 10, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under

consideration the bill (H.R. 2410) to authorize appropriations for the Department of State and the Peace Corps for fiscal years 2010 and 2011, to modernize the Foreign Service, and for other purposes.

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Chair, during consideration of H.R. 2410, the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, I voted for the Royce amendment regarding Eritrea. I know that Eritrea is sending a diplomatic delegation to the United States at the present time, and that sensitive negotiations are taking place in the region. It is my hope that Eritrea will dramatically change its policies as a result of this diplomatic action, and designation of Eritrea as a State Sponsor would be unnecessary. Had this provision been adopted in the House, it could have been (and would have been) removed from the bill in conference should such a change of policy come about. Therefore, I felt that the amendment was worthy of support at this stage of the legislative process notwithstanding the legitimate concerns raised by opponents of the amendment.

TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL J. WOOTTEN

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 12, 2009

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an exceptional man. On Wednesday, June 10th, the federal government and, in particular, the General Services Administration lost an exemplary public servant, a genuine and trusted friend, and a devoted husband and father. On that day Michael J. Wootten, lost his courageous battle with cancer. Mike was the epitome of a fine public servant. He was accurate, detailed, inquisitive, and thorough in his work. He left our federal government and federal workforce the richer for his service.

He began his legal career as a law clerk, serving the office of the 5th district solicitor, Richland County, South Carolina. When he arrived in Washington D.C., Mike served as Majority Staff Counsel to the Committee on the Judiciary of the United States Senate. As full Committee staff counsel, Mike was responsible for issues of Administrative Law and Procedures, Courts, and Juvenile Justice.

Mike then moved on to the Department of Justice, where he spent three years in the Civil Division as Assistant Director of the Office of Policy and Legislation and Special Assistant to the Assistant Attorney General. One of Mike's accomplishments as Special Counsel was assisting in the confirmation of Justice Anthony Kennedy to the U.S. Supreme Court. Before departing Justice to join GSA, Mike served briefly as the Acting General Counsel for the President's Commission on Privatization.

Upon his arrival at the General Services Administration, Mike quickly became the “go to” lawyer for advice and counsel on real property law and legislative matters involving the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act

• This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

of 1949. For almost 20 years Mike served in the Office of the General Counsel. In addition, he served as counsel to the Office of Congressional Affairs, the Public Buildings Service, the Office of Government-wide Policy, and the Office of the Chief Financial Officer. In 2009, Mike was appointed to the Senior Executive Service. His list of opinions was endless, and his advice was sought after and followed.

Mike was justifiably proud of his legal contributions to GSA. However, his pride in his legal career was always exceeded by his pride in his family, his loving wife Shereen and his two outstanding sons, Mitchell and Corey. As a parent and husband, he was immensely proud of their accomplishments, their community involvement, and their love for each other. Mike made and maintained legions of friendships. His friends, who will cherish his memory and joyful spirit, will join me today with honor and great sadness to pay tribute to Michael J. Wooten.

RECOGNIZING THE UNITED
STATES BORDER PATROL'S 85TH
ANNIVERSARY

HON. GABRIELLE GIFFORDS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 12, 2009

Ms. GIFFORDS. Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize the brave men and women of the United States Border Patrol on the occasion of their agency's 85th anniversary.

The Border Patrol is the first line of defense for our nation. When it was established in the early part of the last century, its only posts were in Detroit, Michigan, and El Paso, Texas. The first agents were issued a badge and a revolver but they had to provide their own horses and saddles. Fortunately, the federal government paid for the feed.

Since its founding in 1924, the Border Patrol has grown and become a modern agency in every way. While some Border Patrol agents still ride horses, they all now use technology that their predecessors could not have imagined. Their tools and strategies have changed over time but their original mission remains the same. Each day they put on their uniforms and go out to protect and defend our borders.

Representing the 8th Congressional District in Southeastern Arizona, I have had the privilege of witnessing first-hand the Border Patrol's important work. It has been a highlight of my time in Congress to meet the men and women of the Tucson Sector of the Border Patrol who serve in one of the most challenging regions in our country. While the Tucson Sector represents only 13 percent of our border with Mexico, it accounts for close to 50 percent of the Border Patrol's apprehensions and drug seizures.

Under the exceptional leadership of Tucson Sector Chief Patrol Agent Robert Gilbert, great progress has been achieved in making our border more secure. Chief Gilbert has assembled an outstanding top management team including Deputy Chief Patrol Agent Robert Boatwright and Division Chiefs John Fitzpatrick and Jeanne Ray-Condon. In addition to implementing effective new strategies to deal with the high volume of drug and human smuggling, they have been responsive to my inquiries on behalf of constituents and

they have reached out to establish partnerships with local residents, ranchers and business owners.

The daily work of the Border Patrol is conducted by a force of hard working agents who carry out their duty with honor and distinction in some of the most rugged territory in the nation. I am proud of the relationship we have established with the Executive Board of the National Border Patrol Council, Local 2544, which represents the agents who work in the Tucson Sector. The agents on the ground are capably represented by Edward Tuffly, Local 2544 President, and the members of his Executive Board, Richard Martinez, Arturo Del Cueto, David Hull and Kurt Kelley. They keep me apprised of the needs and concerns of their members so that I can better fight for the resources that they must have to safely and effectively do their jobs.

My 9,000-square mile district includes 114 miles of international border. The Border Patrol's Tucson Sector is ground zero for the trafficking of humans and drugs into our country. Each day, the agents stationed here confront extraordinary risks to keep us safe. They face armed smugglers, harsh desert terrain and weather extremes. Each day, they illustrate what it means to be dedicated to duty and to country. Border Patrol agents serve us with patriotism and commitment and, as a nation, we owe them a tremendous debt of gratitude.

On behalf of the people of Arizona's 8th Congressional District, I extend my deepest appreciation to the men and women of the Tucson Sector of the Border Patrol and to their colleagues who work all across our borders.

COMMEMORATING REAR ADMIRAL
BENNETT S. "BUD" SPARKS,
U.S.C.G.

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 12, 2009

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Rear Admiral Bennett "Bud" Sparks, who passed away May 22 after a lifetime of service to our country in the Coast Guard. Admiral Sparks' dedication to our country and his devotion to his family and his community deserve the highest commendation.

Admiral Sparks was born on October 10, 1925, and enlisted in the Coast Guard Reserve in 1942. His service spanned the globe and he saw action in the Atlantic, Pacific and European theaters of operations while flying as a combat aircrewman on both antisubmarine and air-sea rescue missions. After the War, he transferred to the active Coast Guard, where he received a field promotion to ensign in 1957 after having served in all enlisted ranks through chief petty officer.

He later flew mapping missions over Alaska from 1946 to 1957 for the Coast Guard and as a civilian. In 1966 he took up his first of nine consecutive commands over 23 years. During this time, he served as commanding officer of four Coast Guard Units, three Coast Guard Groups and two U.S. Navy Maritime Defense Zone Sectors. He attained flag rank in 1985, and received his second star in 1987.

Throughout his career, Admiral Sparks received numerous decorations for his service. Among them are the Navy Distinguished Public Service medal, two Coast Guard Distinguished Public Service medals, the Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service medal, two Coast Guard commendation medals, the Coast Guard Achievement medal, the Arctic Service medal and, of course, his Coast Guard Combat Air Crew Wings.

Admiral Sparks was also a dedicated advocate for other reserve officers, fellow veterans and his community. He has served as both president of the Reserve Officer's Association of the United States—the first Coast Guard officer to hold this position—and as Chief of the U.S. Delegation to the Inter-Allied Confederation of Reserve Officers at NATO headquarters in Brussels, Belgium. He also chaired the California Veterans Board, where he worked tirelessly to ensure and enhance the rights and benefits of California Veterans, and was active on the board of the North Bay Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association of Northern California and Nevada.

However, perhaps the most enduring legacy of Admiral Sparks will be as the devoted husband of his wife Betty and as a loving father and grandfather. He is survived by four of his children; Bennett Jr., James, John and Julieann, his sister Doris, as well as his 11 grandchildren, 22 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild.

Madam Speaker, it is fitting at this time that we honor the life, service and memory of Admiral Sparks. His dedication to his country, his family and community are a testament to a great man who will long be remembered by those who knew him. We are lucky to have had him as a neighbor, a friend and an inspiration.

SOUTHWESTERN RANDOLPH—
CLOSE TO PERFECTION

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 12, 2009

Mr. COBLE. Madam Speaker, perfection is difficult to achieve in life—and perhaps even more so in sports—so it is noteworthy when any team comes so close to that achievement. A high school softball team in our congressional district came within one win of a perfect season. Even with that one loss, the team captured a state championship. On behalf of the citizens of the Sixth District of North Carolina, we wish to congratulate the softball team of Southwestern Randolph High School for winning the North Carolina 3A state championship. This is the second 3A title in three years the Cougars have won.

The team was led by Head Coach Steve Taylor who was able to bring the team together and make them believe they were capable of anything. As a result, the Cougars finished the season with an impressive 30–1 record that was capped with a 5–2 win over Asheville T.C. Roberson High School on June 6, 2009.

The championship season was a team effort led by seniors Anna Maness, Holly Berry, and Brittany Jones, juniors Erin Billups, Olivia Hickman, Cheryl Coley, and Hanna Hughes, sophomores Cynthia Hayes, Julia Callicutt,